

Banks, Edgar James

1913-1914



Our Desert Home

Bismya or The Lost City of Adab



The Author as an Arab

A Story of Adventure, of Exploration,
and of Excavations among the Ruins
of the Oldest of the Buried Cities
of Babylonia

By
Edgar James Banks, Ph.D.

Field Director of the Expedition of the
Oriental Exploration Fund of the
University of Chicago to
Babylonia

Octavo. With 175 Illustrations. \$5.00 net. Carriage, 30 cents

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Bismya ; or, The Lost City of Adab

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4 ABBOTT STREET
GREENFIELD, MASS.

May 22, 1913.

The American Numismatic Society,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Last autumn in Babylonia I was able to obtain for this country a large collection of Babylonian tablets which Arabs had recently discovered in the ruins of an ancient city, and which are fully four thousand years old. Should you care to have a small collection of them for your library, I should be pleased to send to you on approval as many as you wish. The price is small, from one to five dollars each, according to the size and condition. I have never known tablets to be sold for this price before, and it is unlikely that they ever will be again, for they are seldom found in such numbers. Hoping that you may be interested, I am,

Very Sincerely Yours,

Edgar J. Banks.

EDGAR J. BANKS
4 ABBOTT STREET
GREENFIELD, MASS.

April 8 1914.

Amer. Numismatic & Archaeological Socy.,
Broadway & 156th Street,
New York City.

Dear Sirs:

Recently in several of the buried cities of Babylonia Arabs discovered a large number of inscribed tablets. Many of them come from about 2400 B. C.; others are from the time of Nebuchadnezzar, and some of them bear his name. They are letters, contracts, and temple records in good condition.

These tablets have been sent to me, and I am offering them to museums. If sold singly they vary in price from two to ten dollars each. In collections of 25 to 100 the price is less. Each tablet is guaranteed genuine.

I should be pleased to send you a collection of the tablets by parcel post on approval or for your selection.

Very sincerely yours,

E/HM

Edgar J. Banks.

FOUR thousand years ago in Babylonia there was no paper; clay was the writing material. When a Babylonian would write a letter, he made a tablet of clay from one to three inches long, stamped it with the wedge-shaped marks of his language, and baked it until it became like stone. Scholars may now read upon the tablets the literature, the history, the contracts and even the private letters of a great lost nation.

Recently in the ruin of a Babylonian city from about 2200 B. C., Arabs found several thousand tablets. Many of them were purchased by European museums; others were brought to this country with the hope that teachers might employ them as object lessons to illustrate the books of the ancients and the sources of ancient history. Another collection of tablets from the dynasty of Nebuchadnezzar 604-651 B. C., has been received, and many of them bear the name of that king. They may be had for from one to ten dollars each, according to the size and condition, and will be sent to any school, library, or museum by parcel post on approval and for selection.

Further information may be had by addressing

(OVER)

DR. EDGAR J. BANKS. Greenfield, Mass.

Dr. Banks was the Field Director of the Babylonian Expedition from the University of Chicago, and has spent several years exploring and excavating in the Orient. Several books on his work have been published. He is now in communication with native archaeologists in Babylonia, Assyria, Palestine and Egypt, and is prepared to supply museums, educational institutions and private collectors with antiquities of almost every description. Each object sent out by him is guaranteed genuine.

The superintendent of probably the best and most progressive public school system in America writes:-

Gary Public Schools,
Gary, Indiana.

February 11, 1914.

Dear Dr. Banks :-

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Our students are intensely interested in these tablets, and I am sure that they receive much more from them than from photographs. I am also sure that the possession of these tablets by the local schools and the constant observation of them by the children will be of much greater value than an occasional visit to a city museum. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

(OVER)

WILLIAM WIRT, Superintendent of Schools.